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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,924	10/01/2003	William E. Adams	030515	8273

23464 7590 11/29/2004

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PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

EXAMINER

SCHULTERBRANDT, KOFI A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/676,924

Applicant(s)

ADAMS, WILLIAM E

Examiner

Kofi A. Schulterbrandt

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5,11 and 16-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 100103.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This first Office Action is in response to Applicant's originally filed Application received in the Office on October 1, 2003 in this case.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, Figures 1, 2 and 3;

Species II, Figure 4;

Species III, Figure 5;

Species IV, Figure 6;

Species V, Figure 7;

Species VI Figure 8; and

Species VII Figures 9.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim

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is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

During a telephone conversation with Lynn J. Alstadt on October 13, 2004 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Species I, Figures (1-3), Readable on claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12-15. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 4, 5, 11 and 16-33 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on October 1, 2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

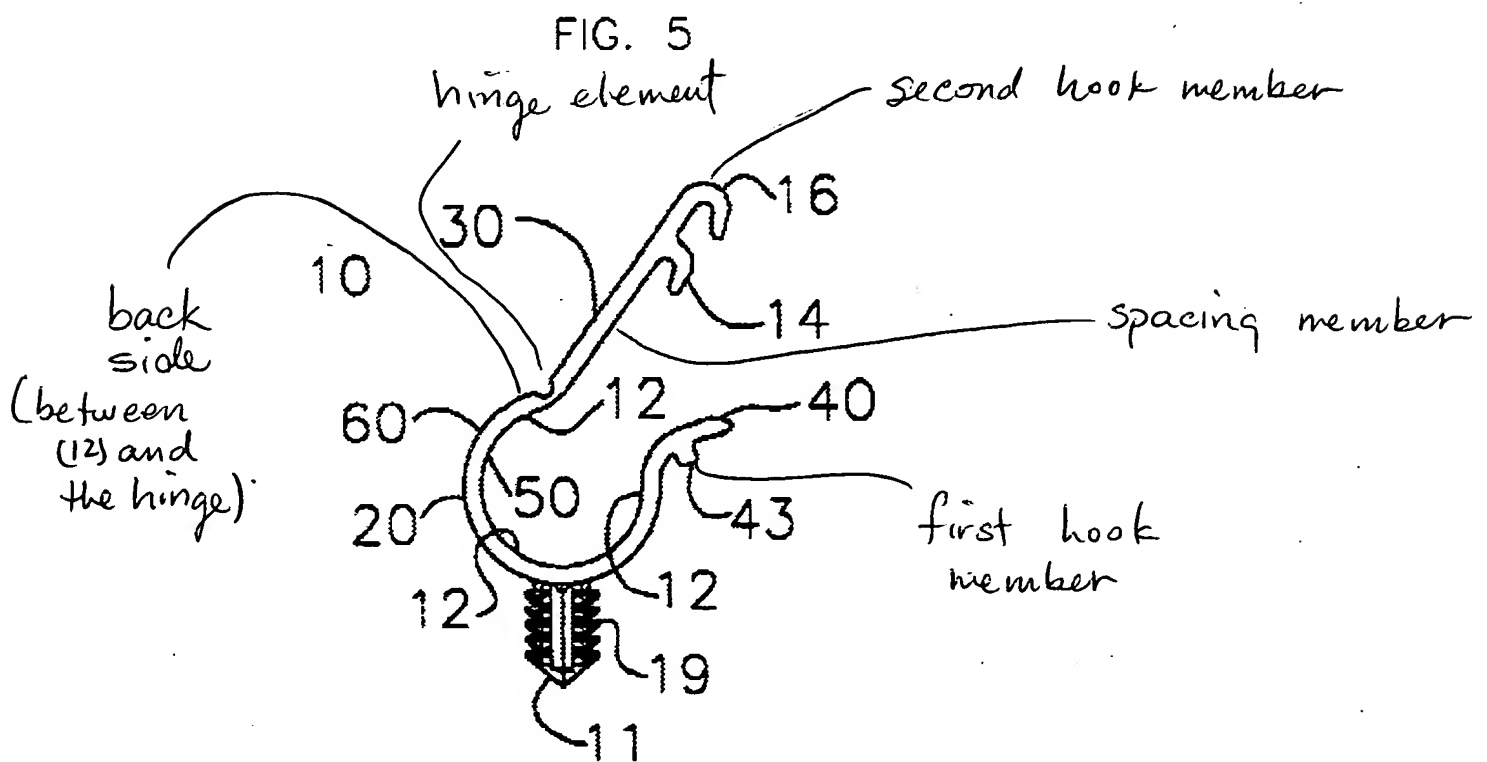
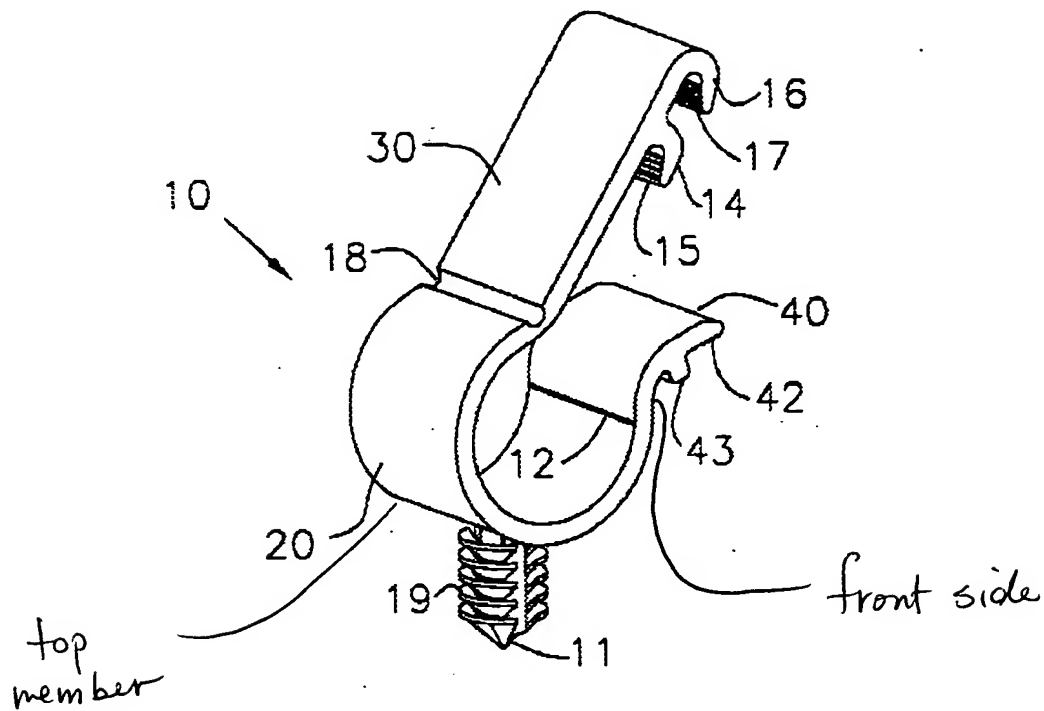
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

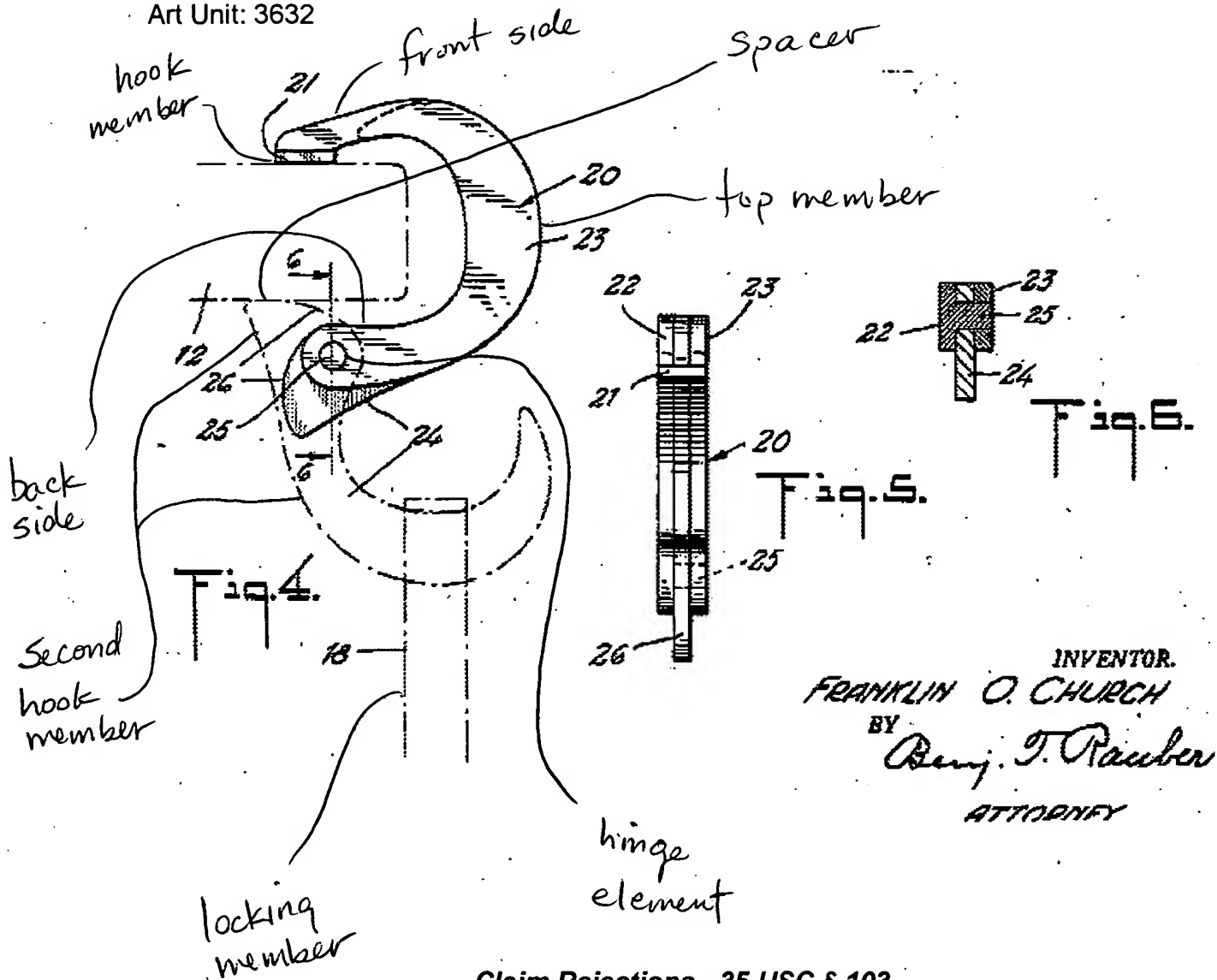
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Locke (5,782,090). Locke teaches each feature of the claimed invention as shown below. Regarding claim 8, Locke teaches a living hinge (See Abstract). Reference numeral (43) teaches a hook because in some orientations, an object could be hung thereon. Furthermore, the ribs (12) form edges as claimed.

Claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Church (2,565,719). Church teaches each feature of the claimed invention as shown below.



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### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke (5,782,093). Locke teaches, substantially, each feature of the claimed invention as discussed above. Locke does not specifically teach the capability of the claimed first

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and second positions being 180 degrees apart. However, because Locke is made from a flexible material (See Figures 3 and 4), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have flexed Locke's clip positions to be 180 degrees apart in order to install the clip in tight situations.

Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke (5,782,093), in view of Wenk (4,128,917). Locke teaches, substantially, each feature of the claimed invention as discussed above. Locke does not teach styrene. Wenk, however, teaches a snap on clamp comprising styrene. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have made Locke's clip of styrene as a number of strong flexible polymeric materials could be satisfactorily utilized in Locke's invention equivalently.

Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Locke (5,782,093), in view of Imes et al. (6,305,054). Locke teaches, substantially, each feature of the claimed invention as discussed above. Locke is silent on thickness and does not specifically teach the claimed thickness range. Imes et. al., however, disclosing a clamp, teaches a clamp band within the claimed thickness range (See col. 6, lns. 55-57, teaching a range of .06-.12 inches). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified Locke to have a band in the claimed range in order to fasten hosing to a support structure in close fitting quarters.



***Prior Pertinent Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. '416 to Jacob; '899 to Omrani; and '847 to Gates each teach door hooks.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kofi A. Schulterbrandt whose telephone number is (703) 306-0096. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A. Braun can be reached on (703) 308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Kofi Schulterbrandt*

Kofi Schulterbrandt  
November 22, 2004